

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 34-106 are active in this application. Claims 66-134 are supported by Claims 34-106 and the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Applicants' thank Examiner Kiliman for the courtesy of discussing this case with the undersigned on February 18, 2004. During this discussion, the addition of the new claims was discussed, which were deemed to be acceptable to the Examiner. In addition, to address the rejections raised in the Office Action, it was agreed that Terminal Disclaimers over the cited copending applications would address those rejections.

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer for copending application serial nos. 10/617,659; 10/617,670; 10/617,671; and 10/617,673. Therefore, withdrawal of both provisional rejections under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting is requested.

Applicants are also submitting herewith copies of correspondence and publications filed during proceedings before the European patent office in the corresponding European application, EP0821755. Note some of the publications cited in the European patent office have already been made of record. Of those that have not, English equivalents are being provided hereto or English translations generated via internet based computer programs are provided. In addition, comments concerning some of these publications from one of the individuals responsible for the corresponding European application are also provided to the Examiner. A return signed and initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 is requested in the next correspondence from the Patent Office.

In the event the Examiner has any questions or requires clarification on any matter pertaining to this application, she is invited to contact the undersigned.

Application No. 10/617,672
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2004

As there are no remaining issues, Applicants request allowance of this application.

Early notice of such allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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